

**CLAIMS**

We claim:

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1. A method of providing a user status message in an instant messaging system,  
comprising:

obtaining a user status message associated with an owner user;

sensing a request to edit said user status message;

10 providing an interface for adding a new entry to said status message;

inputting, through said interface for adding said new entry to said status message,  
information to include within said new entry; and

adding said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding said new  
entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status  
15 message.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said adding said new entry further comprises inserting  
a date at which said new entry was added into said user status message.

20 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said adding said new entry further comprises inserting  
an identifier of a user associated with said request to edit said user status message.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

detecting a character string having a predetermined format within said new entry;  
and

forming a link to a web page through said character having said predetermined format.

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5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

creating a new web page on a predetermined server system responsive to said detecting said character string having a predetermined format within said new entry, wherein said link to said web page comprises a link to said new web page, and wherein  
10 said new web page is an user editable web page.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said owner user associated with said status message, wherein said interface enables said owner user to indicate at least one other user that is  
15 allowed to add an entry to said status message; and

preventing users other than said at least one other user and said owner user associated with said status message from adding an entry to said status message.

7. A system of providing a user status message in an instant messaging system,  
20 comprising:

means for obtaining a user status message associated with an owner user;

means for sensing a request to edit said user status message;

means for providing an interface for adding a new entry to said status message;

means for inputting, through said interface for adding said new entry to said status message, information to include within said new entry; and

means for adding said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding  
5 said new entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status message.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein said means for adding said new entry further comprises means for inserting a date at which said new entry was added into said user  
10 status message.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said means for adding said new entry further comprises means for inserting an identifier of a user associated with said request to edit said user status message.

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10. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for detecting a character string having a predetermined format within said new entry; and

means for forming a link to a web page through said character having said  
20 predetermined format.

11. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

means for creating a new web page on a predetermined server system responsive to said detecting said character string having a predetermined format within said new entry, wherein said link to said web page comprises a link to said new web page; and wherein said new web page is an user editable web page.

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12. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for presenting an interface to said owner user associated with said status message, wherein said interface enables said owner user to indicate at least one other user that is allowed to add an entry to said status message; and

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means for preventing users other than said at least one other user and said owner user associated with said status message from adding an entry to said status message.

13. A computer program product, wherein said computer program product includes a computer readable medium, said computer readable medium having a computer program for providing a user status message in an instant messaging system stored thereon, said computer program comprising:

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program code for obtaining a user status message associated with an owner user;

program code for sensing a request to edit said user status message;

program code for providing an interface for adding a new entry to said status

20 message;

program code for inputting, through said interface for adding said new entry to said status message, information to include within said new entry; and

program code for adding said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status message.

5     14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein said program code for adding said new entry further comprises program code for inserting a date at which said new entry was added into said user status message.

15     15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said program code for adding  
10     said new entry further comprises program code for inserting an identifier of a user associated with said request to edit said user status message.

16. The computer program product of claim 15, said computer program further comprising:

15     program code for detecting a character string having a predetermined format within said new entry; and

program code for forming a link to a web page through said character having said predetermined format.

20     17. The system of claim 16, further comprising:

program code for creating a new web page on a predetermined server system responsive to said program code for detecting said character string having a predetermined format within said new entry, wherein said link to said web page

comprises a link to said new web page, and wherein said new web page is an user editable web page.

18. The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising:

5           program code for presenting an interface to said owner user associated with said status message, wherein said interface enables said owner user to indicate at least one other user that is allowed to add an entry to said status message; and

            program code for preventing users other than said at least one other user and said owner user associated with said status message from adding an entry to said status  
10   message.

19. A system for providing a user status message in an instant messaging system stored thereon, said computer program comprising:

            program code, stored in a computer readable memory communicably coupled to  
15   at least one processor, operable to obtain a user status message associated with an owner user;

            program code, stored in said computer readable memory, operable to sense a request to edit said user status message;

            program code, stored in said computer readable memory, operable to provide an  
20   interface for adding a new entry to said status message;

            program code, stored in said computer readable memory, operable to input, through said interface for adding said new entry to said status message, information to include within said new entry; and

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, operable to add said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status message.